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NEWS

ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION
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April 25, 1942

No. 32



We are going to depart a bit from our usual procedure in sending a message to the field from Washington. In this issue we want to call your attention to an article which appeared in a recent issue of "The Land" and recommend it to every Service worker.

We refer to "Advice of a Wayside Sage" by Kendall Weisiger, vice-president of the society, "Friends of the Land." If you have read the sage's advice, we ask that you read it again; if you overlooked it or did not receive a copy of the magazine, we ask that you read it here. Although many articles have been written about how the care of the land is bound up with the welfare of the people, the way in which this philosopher states his homely truths heightens the story.

ADVICE OF A WAYSIDE SAGE

And when we had come to a cool green place we stopped to rest and refresh ourselves for the day had been hot and the afternoon long. There sitting by the spring was a very old man, a gentle soul of kindly mien. After we had exchanged greetings and he had learned that we were Friends of the Land we talked for a long time of many things and places--the universality of TRUTH, the spiritual values

of BEAUTY, and the GOODNESS of GOD, the wearing away of the land, the superiority of gallberry honey, and why mules can't have colts.

Appraising him as a man of great wisdom, and filled with good ideas we asked him, as at last we arose to go, what we should say to the folks we met along the way. Supporting himself on his long staff he slowly arose, and after cogitating awhile he said:

Let there be made a pond upon every farm to hold the water, so that the springs will flow and cease to dry up.

And let minnows be put in to grow up and be caught, so that fish fries may be held, and friendly intercourse promoted.

And let a boat be built, in which the children may ride about at eventide, as surcease from the heat of the day.

And at the deep end, let a springboard be placed from which father and the boys may dive.

And let all the children learn to swim, so that lives may not needlessly be lost.

And let ducks, and all manner of waterfowl disport themselves along the shores, and dive for food in the shallow places.

And let willows be planted nearby and a bench of simple stone be erected, so
(Continued on page 3)

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HILLCULTURE OFFERS PLAN FOR HILL FARMERS

Jackson Batchelor of the Hillculture Division, in cooperation with others, has worked out a new farm plan. It is a modification of the Soil Conservation Service plan and is of special interest just now because its adoption by hill farmers will help to carry out the Food-for-Freedom campaign.

Under this new plan the suggested additional products grown on the modern hillculture farm are nearly all on the Food-for-Freedom list. The basis of the plan is to provide produce for sale as well as all foods for a nutritional diet for the farmer's family. This attempt to produce all the food on the farm is of tremendous value in the war program because it releases food products that would have to be shipped in to non-food-producing areas for use elsewhere.

The plan is being tried out on a 200 acre farm located near Atlanta, Georgia. The land is owned by the Government and is on one of the Land Utilization projects. The farmer living on the land at present desires to get most of his income from beef cattle. Under the plan that has been worked out, he will also get cash from the sale of seed crops and home fruits, including blueberries, grapes, blackberries, Youngberries, and plums, and other farm and garden products such as eggs, chickens, hogs, vegetables, etc.

Shade trees will be hardy, nut, and fruit varieties that are adaptable to the region. The fruit orchard will consist of superior insect- and disease-resistant species. Supplemental feeds and vegetative shelter will be afforded cattle, hogs, and chickens.

An example of a tree that will be used for food and shelter is the high sugar content honey locust variety that yields as high as 42 percent total sugars in its

(Continued on page 6)

SCS AGRONOMIST IS MEMBER OF SAUDI ARABIA MISSION

James G. Hamilton, regional agronomist at Albuquerque, N. M., has been selected as a member of an Agricultural Mission to Saudi Arabia. The mission, organized at the request of the Government of Saudi Arabia, will study the water and agricultural resources of that country and will report on the possibilities of their development.

Mr. Hamilton was selected as a member of the mission because of his familiarity with agricultural problems in a section of this country which is similar to that of Saudi Arabia. He has already sailed for the Near East.

SAFETY AWARDS

Certificates of award for their excellent safety records have been issued to 84 SCS field work units. Each of these units has operated a year or more without an accident that caused a disabling injury.

Topping the list of awards is that which goes to Elsberry, Mo., nursery which has a record of five-year's operation without a disabling injury. Hugh A. Steavenson is the nursery manager.

Fifty certificates of award were issued to cover no-accident records for one year, 26 awards were for 2 years, four for 3 years, and 3 for 4 years.

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"War Production and Conservation" by Dillon S. Myer, Acting Administrator of ACAA, will be featured on the front page of the April issue of *The Agricultural Situation*, the summary of economic conditions which is issued monthly by BAE. Copies of the article will be distributed to all USDA crop reporters in addition to the regular mailing list of the periodical --making a total distribution of about 290,000.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

(Continued from page 1)

old folks may sit and dream of heaven, and where they may impart their wisdom to the little ones.

And let care be taken that no mosquitoes shall breed there, to carry sickness to the family or the neighbors.

And if need be, let there be placed a ram, or a powered pump, so that the land may be watered, and the dreadful drought avoided.

And when all these things shall have been done, peace and joy should reign within the family, and throughout all the land, for good water will be abundant and the crops will flourish and yield a bountiful return

And as we waved a last good-bye, he raised his voice and called, "If you be going to the South, tell them, also, to quit burning the woods!"

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"Selective Service For Each Acre", the title of an article by Glennon Loyd in the March *Soil Conservation*, has caught on as a slogan in all parts of the country. The editors of *Better Crops with Plant Food* comment on it in their March issue and say, "These five words bring the war down to the land and might well become the slogan of every farm-owner, renter, and share-cropper for the duration."

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Dr. Bennett addressed the Audubon Society at Rochester, N.Y., on April 24. He chose as his subject, "Soil and National Defense."

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The Nursery Division of Region 9, in collaboration with the Extension Service, has prepared an excellent mimeographed circular on "The Farm Garden in Western Oregon."

D. MYER ANNOUNCES
ACAA PROGRAM PLAN

"Each agency in the ACAA will continue with its essential functions and the Office of the Administrator will establish at this time only minimum controls to coordinate the tremendous job we have undertaken as our part of the Food-for-Freedom campaign," announced Dillon S. Myer, Administrator of ACAA, at a recent meeting of the heads of the agencies which make up the administration--AAA, SCS, FCIC, and Sugar Division.

In announcing his plans for ACAA, Mr. Myer stressed three points-- (1) that we must do everything in the most effective way to get our part of the war job done, (2) that we must seek the ultimate coordination in the various programs so that our jobs can be accomplished as quickly and as smoothly as possible, and (3) that the Office of the Administrator will keep in touch with the general administration of the agencies but will leave in each agency the key work which is essential to accomplishing the functions of that agency.

In carrying out the administrative responsibilities of ACAA, Mr. Myer stated that his office would assume certain minimum controls relating to personnel, fiscal, budget, general services and procurement procedures. To assist in this work, John B. Wilson, Jr., will serve as Special Assistant to the Administrator, and he in turn will be aided by F. J. Hopkins, formerly Assistant Chief in charge of Administration in SCS, and Buford Rhea, Chief of the AAA budget section.

The plan for over-all administrative responsibility in the Office of the Administrator of ACAA has been outlined as follows:

General

Determinations of major policy in the
(Continued on page 5)

W. R. VAN DERSAL IS AUTHOR OF BOOK ON AMERICAN SHRUBS

The book, "Ornamental American Shrubs" by William R. Van Dersal is being published by the Oxford University Press and will appear on the bookstands some time in August.

In his introductory chapters, Mr. Van Dersal tells of the early explorations by European botanists who sent back to Europe so many of the new plants they found in this new land. As a result, many American ornamental shrubs are widely used in foreign countries, especially in English gardens. These shrubs are ranked among the best in the world; however, in this country folks are not as familiar with the native ornamentals as they should be.

Out of approximately 1700 species of shrubs in the United States, the author, with the help of some technical assistants, has selected about 250 outstanding ornamental shrubs from all parts of the United States and given a thorough treatise on the advantages and disadvantages of their use, and how to grow them. The book is well illustrated and will be very helpful for those who are seeking to become more familiar with the native shrubs.

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John S. Barnes has been detailed to the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs to serve in the absence of C. B. Manifold who is in charge of the Rubber Project of that Office. Mr. Manifold flew last week to Rio de Janeiro and from there he will go to inspect the rubber projects in the Amazon River basin.

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Gerald G. Smith, chief of the Budget and Finance Division, has resigned to accept the position of Financial Director of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. R. L. Geiger, Jr., has been designated as acting in charge of the SCS division.

REGION 10 HAS NOVEL PLAN FOR EXTRA STAMP SALES

The Regional Defense Committee in Region 10 has worked out a novel idea for extra sales of Defense Saving Stamps and Bonds and the idea is working.

The Committee decided there was considerable "loose change" floating around the regional headquarters building that usually went for pop, harmful cigarettes, or magazines they didn't have sufficient time to read. It was decided that once a day a young lady (sorry we can't reproduce the picture the region sent in for she is quite photogenic-Ed) would quickly tour the building carrying a tray in which there would be \$10.00 worth of assorted 10¢ and 25¢ stamps, and \$2.00 in change, raised by private loans.

A total of \$60.35 had been raised after nine tours, averaging better than \$6.00 per trip. A poster -- designed as a cash register with slots for daily changing of the day's sales and total sales to date -- occupies the center position on the bulletin board in the hall. Some day the folks in Region 10 hope to buy a wing for a bomber or something to make life a little less enjoyable for the Japs.

SIMPLE AND TO THE POINT

Instead of spending time preparing a lengthy article explaining how easily terraces can be built with horse-drawn equipment, H. D. Loden, work unit technician in the Wiregrass soil conservation district, writing in a conservation column, "Tips on Soil Conservation," in the Abbeville, (Ala.), Herald, put it this way:

A horse
A hand
A plow
A pan
Can terrace any land.

ACAA PROGRAM PLAN

(Continued from page 3)

fields of personnel, fiscal, budgetary, and general service.

Review and approval of organization matters.

Coordination of administrative policy and procedure.

Studies in administrative management for purposes of economy and efficiency.

Personnel

Major contacts with the Department and outside agencies involving personnel matters.

Review and recommendations relating to the following specific items;

Personnel actions in all grades \$4600 and above;

Recruitment programs;

Policy relating to separations and furloughs;

Personnel investigations of special importance;

Disciplinary policies;

Training policies;

Control and check on execution of established policies.

Fiscal and Budget

Major contacts with the Department, Bureau of the Budget, Treasury Department, and with the Congress.

Procedures for arriving at budget estimates and allocations.

Approval of budgets to be submitted to the Department, Bureau of the Budget, and the Congress.

Approval of allotments, allocations, and transfers to Agencies and Services throughout the year, as well as approval of major allotments within Agencies and Services.

Review and approval of regular and special reports for transmission to the Bureau of the Budget, Treasury Department, and other branches of the Government.

(Continued in next column)

PROFITS FROM LIVESTOCK ARE MORE THAN DOUBLED

Gross profits of approximately 200 livestock operators within the Northern New Mexico Grant Lands Project have been increased from \$5.85 per animal in 1937 to \$13.27 per animal in 1941, according to E. D. Eaton, chief of the regional Land Management Division at Albuquerque.

The livestock men in the project graze their cattle on approximately 240,000 acres of Spanish land grants purchased by the Resettlement Administration in 1936 and placed under SCS in 1937. Increased profits are due, says Mr. Eaton, to improved quality and weight of livestock and to the general rise in market prices. Improvement in the weight of animals was largely due to an improved range.

Group action has been stimulated by the organization of two State-chartered cooperative associations, known as the Caja del Rio-Majada Cooperative and the Rio Chama-Rio Grande Cooperative. Under the cooperative system, small herds of cattle have been grouped into large herds, but all cattle are branded and never lose their individual ownership identity.

Even though some of the small Spanish-American villages lying within the area have existed for nearly 400 years, livestock management methods have been rather crude until recent years. Improvement of cattle on the grant lands is important because each family gets a slightly larger annual income and New Mexico is able to produce more meat for the Nation's war needs.

To provide for the preparation of financial reports at regular intervals or such special reports as may be needed in the Office of the Administrator of Office of the Secretary.

Analysis and comment on fiscal and budget aspects for proposed legislation.

HILLCULTURE PLAN

(Continued from page 2)

fruit pod and has in the past been used also to tie down steep erodible pasture land. Many plant materials, including persimmon, chickasaw plum, and mulberry, are growing wild in the area and may be easily collected. They will also serve to control erosion and yield feed.

The details of the plan may be modified easily to suit the needs of individual farmers. It is recognized by Batchelor that the ratio of acreage devoted to different crops would depend a great deal on the abilities and desires of the farmer putting it into effect.

More details of this plan are included in a mimeographed bulletin written by Mr. Batchelor. It is planned to apply his hillculture farm plan on more farms in the southeast and it is believed that these demonstrations will supplement the SCS farm planning program. The plan was carried out under the guidance of the Nursery Division of the SCS in the southeast part of the United States and with the help of technicians. It is not claimed by those that have worked it out that the plan represents the final word, but it is hoped that it will serve as a rough guide and will stimulate efforts not only to conserve our soil but efforts to win the war by helping fulfill the Food-for-Freedom program.

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Not all the news out of Australia these days deals with the war. Region 7 has received a request from the deputy chief, Division of Plant Industry, at Sydney, Australia for copies of Arthur L. Holding's pamphlet, "Range Studies and Their Results."

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With the organization of nine new soil conservation districts since the first of the year, Region 2 now has 122 organized districts covering 125,253,825 acres.

PIEDMONT (ALA.) DISTRICT HARVESTS LARGE SEED CROP

The average farmer carrying out a district conservation plan on his farm in the Piedmont soil conservation district in Alabama last year planted kudzu at a rate 33 times as great as the average farmer in the State. He also harvested 15 times as much sericea seed and 4-3/4 times as much annual lespedeza seed.

This report by T. H. Neighbors, chairman of the board of supervisors, indicates how district conservation plans are aiding the Food-for-Freedom program and conserving the soil at the same time.

These three crops not only conserve soil and furnish feed needed for increased production of livestock in the war effort, but by adding nitrogen to the soil they reduce the need for commercial nitrogen, which is essential in making munitions.

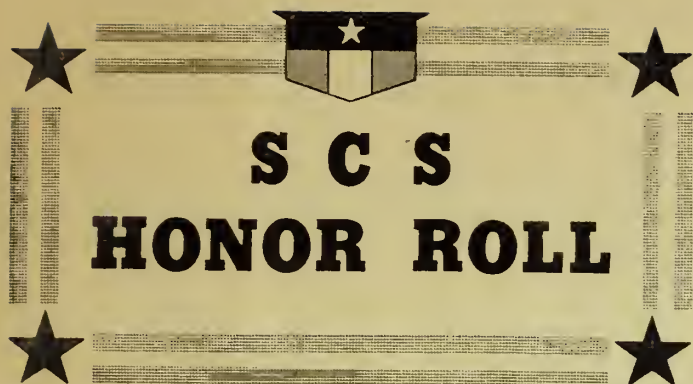
The relatively high rate at which sericea and annual lespedeza seed were harvested in the Piedmont district, as compared with the average farm in the State as a whole, indicates the important part districts can play in assuring an adequate supply of seed for increased plantings of legumes which will be needed in meeting crop production goals.

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Dr. Bennett addressed the seventh annual North American Wildlife Conference at Toronto, Canada, on April 10. The subject of the Chief's talk was "Soil and Water--Basic Wartime Resources."

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A new law passed by the Congress of Columbia, South America, provides for the creation of a soil conservation service in the Ministry of National Economy to organize laboratories for soil analysis. It also authorizes the Ministry of National Education to establish vocational schools of agriculture and industry.



FARMERS WANT TO KNOW ABOUT INCENDIARY BOMBS

(This is the second article to be published on this subject in response to requests from the field. How to combat white phosphorus "scatter" bombs was discussed in the March 31 issue of SERVICE NEWS.)

2nd Lt. ROBERT S. PARK, U. S. Army, died September 19, 1941, of injuries received in an automobile accident which occurred September 18, while Lieutenant Park was on official duty. Lieutenant Park was a junior soil surveyor in Region 6, with headquarters at Amarillo. He was ordered to duty with the Army on February 16, 1941.

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SCS speakers were featured on three recent broadcast programs of the Farm and Home Hour. Using "Conservation Increases Yield" as the theme of the programs, Dr. Bennett appeared as guest speaker on March 19 and talked on the subject "Production Through Conservation." E. A. Norton, chief of Physical Surveys Division, appeared on the March 26 program to talk about "Increased Production Through Conservation and Proper Land Use" and A. E. Brandt, chief of the Conservation Experiment Stations Division, concluded the series on April 2 with a discussion of "Production Now Through Conservation."

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Literary critics are saying complimentary things about "Old McDonald Had a Farm", by Angus McDonald, Washington information specialist. The book is an account of his life on the Oklahoma farm of his father who lived and preached the tenets of soil conservation as well as the gospel of Calvinistic Christianity.

W. F. Beamon of the Cartographic Division has accepted a position with the mapping division of the U.S. Army Air Corps at Bolling Field, Washington, D. C.

There is another type of scatter incendiary--the oil bomb which contains metallic sodium or potassium or sodium hydride. These sometimes burn or explode on contact with water and the best method of dealing with them is to smother them with sand or a mixture of sand, dolomite, and salt. Also, as with the white phosphorus squares, another way is to let the bomb burn itself out, keeping the area about it wet but keeping water away from the bomb.

There is a multiple-effect incendiary bomb which may be either white phosphorus or magnesium type. This bomb is equivalent to several ordinary magnesium bombs or phosphorus bombs except that it is dropped as one unit and then later is blown apart by an explosive or mechanical arrangement, throwing small bombs about. This type of bomb, however, would hardly be used in rural areas since it is designed for attack on large buildings.

In any area where there is danger of bombing raids it would be a wise precaution on the part of farm people to set up some organization to be on the watch for incendiaries of any type. The Office of Civilian Defense will issue shortly, we understand, a very complete publication for rural people dealing with raids, parachute troops, demolition, gas and incendiary bombs, and methods of combatting them.

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H. C. Mesch, head of the Safety and Health Section, has resigned to become chief of the WPB Industrial Safety Equipment Section.

PRINTERS' INK

"Contributions Which Soil Conservation Districts Can Make Toward an American War Victory" by T. S. Buie, Region 2 Conservator, in the April *Commercial Fertilizer*. The article is a reprint of the paper presented by Dr. Buie before the Soil Conservation Section, Association of Southern Agricultural Workers, at Memphis, Tenn., on Feb. 4.

"Problems in Physical Evaluation of Soil Conservation Benefits" by G. W. Collier, agriculture economist of the Washington Farm Planning and Management Division, in the February *Journal of Farm Economics*.

"Public Highways and Erosion Control" by J. S. Glass, engineer at Milwaukee, Wis., in the January 20 issue of the *Illinois University Bulletin*.

"The Story of Strip Cropping" by W. W. John, associate information specialist at Milwaukee, and O. E. Hays, soil conservationist at La Crosse, Wis., in the February *Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin*

"Erosion and Economics in Ante-Bellum Virginia" by Lois Olson, head of the Washington Erosion History Section, in the February *Commonwealth*

"Defense and Conservation Are Two Phases of Saving Soil" by N. E. Winters, principal soil conservationist at Honolulu, Hawaii, in the December 15 issue of *Hawaii Farm and Home*.

"Recruits for Soil Defense" by C. R. Enlow, chief of the Agronomy Division, in the February *Farm Journal*.

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N. R. Bear, chief of the Farm Planning and Management Division, has been detailed to the USDA Office of Personnel. During his absence Dr. H. C. Diener will be acting in charge of the division.

OFF THE PRESS

"Physical Land Conditions in Greene County, Georgia," by David P. Powell and Charles B. Gay. Physical Land Survey No. 23.

"Physical Land Conditions on the Leatherwood Creek Demonstration Project, Lawrence County, Indiana," by Dr. D. R. Kunkel, C. A. Engberg, and C. L. Whiteford. Physical Land Survey No. 24.

FIELD MEMORANDA

864-C Authority for employment of owner-operators. (SCS can now employ owner-operators for periods not to exceed 6 months in any one year. Authority is limited to Dec. 31, 1942.)

1040-A Guards and Caretakers. (Attached Secretary's memo No. 981 outlines USDA policy and procedure relative to guard service to protect field establishments.)

1043-D Deferments. (Requests survey of all employees who may be placed in Class 1-A for selective service.)

1024-A Department correspondence style manual. (Supplement to USDA style manual outlining SCS policy in preparing correspondence has been issued.)

923-A Special use permit, Form No. SCS 39. (This form to be used in granting on LU project lands such privileges as cropping, occupancy, or grazing. Temporary Use Agreement, Form No. SCS-429, to be used only for granting these privileges in connection with closing of land acquisition cases)

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* BUY DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS
--and remind your friends too!